



# ***Physical Therapy Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs***

*The mission of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to promote and protect the interests of the people of California by the effective and consistent administration and enforcement of the Physical Therapy Practice Act.*

## ***2006 Strategic Plan***

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## Introduction

The Physical Therapy Board of California's Strategic Plan was adopted on May 4, 2006.

In 1953 the Physical Therapy Examining Committee was created by Chapter 1823, statutes of 1953 (AB1001). While the name has been changed to the Physical Therapy Board of California (PTBC), the charge to the PTBC by the legislature has been protecting the public from the incompetent, unprofessional or criminal practice of physical therapy since its inception. The goals and objectives contained in the Strategic Plan build on that charge. The PTBC is one of approximately thirty regulatory entities which exist under the organizational structure of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The PTBC has close and cooperative relationship with DCA.

The PTBC consists of seven members (four licensed physical therapists and three public members) who serve four-year terms (a maximum of two terms). The Governor appoints the four licensed physical therapists and one public member. The Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint one public member. Board members are required to complete a Form 700 – Conflict of Interest Statement, and they are required to submit this statement to the Fair Political Practices Commission, each year. Additionally, the board members are required to complete ethics training every two years.

The PTBC appoints an executive officer as its administrator. The executive officer serves solely in the interest of the consumers of physical therapy services in California, as does the PTBC. The executive officer oversees the board's staff and ensures that all of its programs function efficiently and effectively.

The PTBC is funded through license and application fees. The board receives no General Fund monies from the State of California.

*Licensed physical therapists* may practice physical therapy independently. To become licensed, one must possess a post baccalaureate degree in physical therapy, pass the national physical therapy examination (NPTE), and pass the California Law Examination (CLE). Foreign educated physical therapists must also pass a period of clinical service after passing the NPTE.

*Licensed physical therapist assistants* assist a physical therapist in the practice of physical therapy. To become licensed, one must possess an associate's degree in physical therapy or qualify by meeting the equivalency requirements. A physical therapist assistant is under the supervision of a physical therapist.

*Physical therapy aide* is an unlicensed person who performs designated routine physical therapy tasks under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed physical therapist.

## Mission

*The mission of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to promote and protect the interests of the people of California by the effective and consistent administration and enforcement of the Physical Therapy Practice Act.*

## Vision

*California's physical therapy consumers and practitioners enjoy a safe, fair and competitive marketplace by virtue of the efforts of the Board.*

## Description of the Board's Functions

The function of the Physical Therapy Board of California is to:

- Promote legal and ethical standards of professional conduct
- Promote the competent and professional practice of physical therapy
- Maintain and enforce relevant regulations and statutes
- Investigate the background of applicants
- Administer licensing examinations
- Promote a national examination program that is reflective of the current practice of physical therapy
- License physical therapists and physical therapist assistants
- Provide for licensure of foreign educated physical therapists who have education which is substantially equivalent to California requirements
- Certify physical therapists to perform electromyography
- Investigate complaints from consumers
- Take disciplinary actions against licensees
- Educate consumers about patient's rights and quality of service
- Monitor marketplace trends in health care so that the Board's programs and policies are contemporary, relevant and responsive
- Partner with consumer and regulatory groups in California and the nation

## **Strategic Goals**

The Physical Therapy Board of California has adopted the following strategic goals on May 4, 2006 for 2006, which provide the framework for furthering its mission.

### ***Goal 1 – Enforcement Program***

- The health and safety of California consumers is protected through the expeditious enforcement of the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy.

### ***Goal 2 – Examination Program***

- Examinations are valid measures of each applicant's knowledge of physical therapy practice.

### ***Goal 3 – Licensing Program***

- The licensing process permits competent applicants speedy access to the marketplace without compromising consumer protection.

### ***Goal 4 – Education and Outreach Program***

- Consumers, licensees and stakeholders are educated and informed about the practice and the laws and regulations governing the provision of physical therapy services in California.

### ***Goal 5 – Diversion Program***

- The health and safety of consumers is protected through the rehabilitation of individuals providing services under the Physical Therapy Practice Act whose competency is impaired by substance abuse.

### ***Goal 6 – Administration Program***

- The most timely, accurate and cost effective products and services are provided to the boards' customers, employees and stakeholders.

# Enforcement Program

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## **Goal One:**

Complaints are resolved in the most impartial, accurate, and cost effective manner.

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1. A Reduce the unlicensed practice of physical therapy by 10%.  
(Target Date:03/31/08)
1. B Reduce the average time to resolve consumer complaints in no more than 19 months.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)

## **Performance Measures**

- *Has the board reduced the unlicensed practice of physical therapy by 10%?*
- *Has staff reduced the average time to resolve consumer complaints to fewer than 18 months?*

# Examination Program

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## ***Goal Two:***

The Physical Therapy Board of California examinations are a valid measure of each applicant's knowledge of physical therapy practice.

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- 2.A Update the Electromyography Examination.  
(Target Date: 12/31/07)
- 2. B Update the California Law Examination.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 2. C Obtain Federation cooperation with candidates taking exams and obtaining a passing score prior to application for licensure.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 2. D California to establish a pilot where exam scores are provided to a candidate within 24 hours.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)

## ***Performance Measures***

- *Has the Electromyography Examination been updated?*
- *Has the California Law Examination been updated?*
- *Has the Board obtained Federation cooperating with candidates taking exams and obtaining a passing score prior to application for licensure?*
- *Has the Board established a pilot where exam scores are provided to a candidate within 24 hours?*

## Licensing Program

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### **Goal 3:**

The licensing process permits competent applicants speedy access to the marketplace without compromising consumer protection.

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- 3. A Begin issuing a non-paper license that includes a photograph of the licensee.  
(Target Date: 03/31/10).
- 3. B Begin imaging of all licensing and enforcement records to be sure they could be reproduced if a disaster occurred.  
(Target Date: 12/31/10)
- 3. C Same day issuance of license applicant status.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 3. D Establish continuing competency requirements for license renewal.  
(Target Date: 03/31/08)
- 3. E Eliminate the 30-day delinquent grace period.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 3. F Study appropriateness of maintaining equivalency pathway to PTA licensure pursuant to California Code of Regulation 1398.47(a)(2) and (b).  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)

### **Performance Measures**

- *Has the Board implemented non-paper photo licenses?*
- *Has the Board completed imaging all licensing and enforcement records to ensure reproduction in the event of a disaster?*
- *Has the Board implemented same day issuance of license applicant status?*
- *Has the Board established continuing competency requirements for license renewal?*
- *Did the Board eliminate the delinquent grace period?*
- *Has the Board studied eliminating physical therapist assistants applying under 1398.47, Equivalency?*

## Education & Outreach Program

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### **Goal 4:**

Consumers, licensees and stakeholders are educated and informed about the practice and the laws and regulations governing the provision of physical therapy services in California.

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- 4. A Develop and implement a consumer/student outreach program.  
(Target Date: 03/31/08)
- 4. B Begin distributing information inserts in all renewal mailings.  
(Target Date: 12/31/07)
- 4. C Staff will develop a plan for Board members and staff to actively participate in the annual meetings, committees, and task forces of the FSBPT, C C, CLEAR and FARB.  
(Target Date: 06/30/08)
- 4. D Each Board member will meet with their respective legislator.  
(Target Date: 12/31/06)
- 4. E Enable licensees to develop a professional profile that is available on the PTBC website.  
(Target Date: 12/31/10)

### **Performance Measures**

- *Has the Board implemented a consumer outreach program?*
- *Has the Board distributed informational inserts in all renewal mailings?*
- *Has the staff developed a plan for Board Members and staff to actively participate in the annual meetings, committees, and task forces of the FSBPT, CAC, CLEAR, and FARB?*
- *Has each Board Member met with their respective legislator?*
- *Has the Board enabled licensees to develop a professional profile that is available on the PTBC website?*



# Diversion Program

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## **Goal 5:**

Provide physical therapy professionals a means to retain their license and practice physical therapy in a safe and effective manner.

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- 5. A The Health and Safety of consumers is protected through the rehabilitation of individuals providing services under the Physical Therapy Practice Act whose competency is impaired by substance abuse.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 5.B Enact legislative change in proposed PT Practice Act.  
(Target Date: 12/31/08)

## **Performance Measures**

- *Has the Board ensured the Health and Safety of consumers is protected through the rehabilitation of individuals providing services under the Physical Therapy Practice Act whose competency is impaired by substance abuse?*
- *Was the proposed Practice Act approved by the legislature during Sunset?*

# Administration Program

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## **Goal 6:**

The most timely, accurate and cost effective products and services are provided to the boards' customers, employees and stakeholders.

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- 6. A    Begin accepting all forms and fees electronically.  
          (Target Date: 12/31/08)
- 6. B    Improve customer service through utilization of new technology.  
          (Target Date: 07/01/07)
- 6. C    Include representation of a physical therapist assistant and a public member on  
          the Board and enhance a representative of the public.  
          (Target Date: 12/31/08)

## **Performance Measures**

- *Has the Board implemented accepting all forms and fees electronically?*
- *Has the Board improved customer service through utilization of new technology?*
- *Did the Board enhanced representation by a physical therapist assistant and an additional public member?*